

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to add section headings.

Claims 5 and 13-14 have been canceled and claim 15 has been added.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under §112, second paragraph, and have been amended as to form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 were rejected as anticipated by LAMBING et al. 5,160,771. Claim 1 has been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-12 are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 1 includes metal layers that each includes two metal layer sections that have mutually overlapping edges bonded to one another. LAMBING et al. disclose separate metal layers 15 and 80 that overlap at their edges, but metal layers 15 and 80 are not two sections of a metal layer; they are two separate metal layers. As is known, a metal layer is a stratum. Metal layers 15 and 80 are at different elevations and cannot be a stratum. By contrast, see Figure 2 of the present application in which the top metal layer 10 has a section to the right and a section to the left that are at the same level except where they overlap. Metal layers 15 and 80 in LAMBING et al. are at different levels and do not form two sections of a metal layer (column 1, lines 63-67). Metal layers 15 and 80 are two metal

layers that overlap, not two sections of one layer that overlap. New claim 15 further defines this limitation and is allowable for the same reason.

Amended claim 1 further provides that the fill has a thickness such that at the location of the fill the laminate has a thickness equal to a total thickness of the overlapping edges of the metal layers. This is seen in Figure 2 of the present application in which the center section includes four overlapping edges whose total thickness is the thickness of the laminate. The fill 24, 25 at the edges of Figure 2 increases the thickness of the laminate at the location of the fill so that the thickness there is equal to the thickness in the center. In LAMBING et al., the laminate does not have a thickness equal to a total thickness of the overlapping edges of the metal layers, as the reference is being interpreted in the Official Action. The thickness of the laminate at the location of the fill in LAMBING et al. far exceeds the total thickness of the overlapping edges.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 avoids the rejection under §102. The dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Thomas W. Perkins/  
Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

TWP/lk